

out the United States may have opportunity to scan the same.

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**Nagging Officiousness.**—In the Letters Department of the current number is printed a copy of a letter dated September 25th, sent by Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, California State Chairman for Physicians' Procurement and Assignment Service to Dr. Paul C. Barton, Executive Officer of the central Procurement and Assignment Service in Washington, D. C. In his letter, Dr. Fletcher directs attention to procedures which would make it necessary for physicians to register, and write additional paper reports.

In these busy days, many physicians are rendering professional courtesies to colleagues, when the doctors called upon, because of more immediate responsibilities, are themselves unable to respond. For the letter referred to, see page 226.

Dr. Fletcher is to be commended not only for his forthright statements, but for the service he has rendered in calling the attention of the Washington authorities to the annoying officiousness of representatives of the Social Security Board. Physicians should take the time to read the letter. Naturally the thought arises,—Are the conditions criticized by Dr. Fletcher a foretaste or sample of what medical men may experience, if compulsory governmental medicine is put in operation?

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**Industrial Accident Work Fee Schedule Increased by 15 Per Cent Surcharge.**—Minutes of the 320th meeting of the C.M.A. Council (CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for September, page 153, Item 10) gave information concerning conferences with the California Industrial Accident Commission and other groups. Also, that the California Industrial Accident Commission had officially authorized a 15 per cent surcharge on fees for professional services rendered to patients coming under the jurisdiction of the industrial accident laws of California. The component county societies of the California Medical Association have been so notified. However, one or two commercial carriers seem reluctant to abide by the ruling of the State Industrial Accident Commission. Such instances should be reported to the central office of the California Medical Association.

The following is one of several resolutions adopted by county medical societies:

**RESOLUTION OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**

WHEREAS, The industrial accident rates for medical services have not been increased for the last 24 years; and

WHEREAS, The costs of rendering these services have materially increased during this long period of time; therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the San Joaquin County Medical Society does hereby endorse the 15 per cent surcharge authorized by the Industrial Accident Commission of the State of California, as a partial compensation for these increased costs; and further

*Resolved*, That all members of this Society include

this 15 per cent surcharge on all statements for medical services rendered to industrial accident patients as of August 1, 1944, as authorized by the California Industrial Accident Commission. (See letters on p. 215.)

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**Four Symposia on Wartime Medical Topics.**

—The current issue carries the first of four symposia on wartime medical topics. Reference was made to these, in reports submitted by the Editorial Board to the C.M.A. Council (references: CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for June, page 325, Item 13; and CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, for September, page 153, Item 9). The symposia were gathered under the supervision of special committees: (1) Civilian Defense, Dr. Henry Gibbons, III, San Francisco; (2) Communicable Diseases, Dr. Edward B. Shaw, San Francisco; (3) Nutritional Topics, Dr. Dwight L. Wilbur, San Francisco; (4) Industrial Problems, Dr. Rutherford T. Johnstone, Los Angeles.

The symposia will probably appear in the order indicated. Because of the lesser size of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, due to governmental directives designed to alleviate paper shortage, the symposia, during the next four months, will use all available space in the department allocated to original articles. Thereafter, papers presented at this year's annual session, and before county societies, will again receive consideration for publication.

Thanks are extended by the Editorial Board to all who participated in the collection and preparation of the articles that will appear in the symposia.

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**P. and A. Clearance, as a Requirement for Membership in County Medical Societies.**

Component County Medical Societies that have taken no action to date, may wish to give consideration to prospective by-laws laying down,—for this wartime period, at least,—a new requirement to apply to applicants for county society membership. The principles and issues involved are worthy of careful thought.

A paragraph from a letter sent out by Dr. Harold A. Fletcher, Physicians' Procurement and Assignment Service chairman for California, gives the following information:

"Over a year ago, in discussing this problem with my San Mateo County Chairman of Procurement and Assignment Service, and the San Mateo County Medical Society, the San Mateo County Medical Society passed a resolution which would debar new applicants from membership in the San Mateo County Medical Society who located in San Mateo County, in areas or locations where their services were not considered by Procurement and Assignment Service as definitely essential.

"This resolution, which was adopted, has had a very helpful effect in getting new physicians wishing to locate in San Mateo County to take definite locations where they were needed, or in causing them to locate in some other county where their services were very much needed.

"It has also had the general all-over effect of assuring physicians from San Mateo County who are on active duty with the military forces, that their practices would